

December 8, 2021

To: City of Bellevue Planning Commission
Re: Oral Comments: Project Name: 115 100th Ave
File Number: 21-120635-AC
Applicant: Ben Wei, WYMOND Investment LLC

Good evening. My name is Craig Spiezle. I am speaking tonight echoing recent comments submitted by the Lochleven Community Association and those voiced by others.

Before I proceed it is important to notify the Commission that it has been revealed the applicant does not have legal standing and if verified, the only action the city can take is to nullify the application. This matter has been referred to the City Attorney by the Planning Department. The community has since requested an ethics and conflict of interest review.

As a community we want to see this property developed, however we strongly object to the application. This rezone would significantly impact our neighborhood and conflict with over 40% of the policies outlined in the draft NW Bellevue Neighborhood plan. Further as stated the application could eliminate up to 23 residential units from the available housing stock which also conflicts with the comprehensive plan.

The rezone would increase the existing building height from 30 up to 45 feet, overshadowing adjacent properties, while inserting commercial use into a residential area. It would be an unnecessary intrusion of the established transition buffer and as proposed it risks significantly impacting the tree canopy including over twenty trees designated as significant per LUC 20.20.900. Further the neighborhood opposes any discussions to potentially amend the application to expand the boundaries to include nearby similarly situated properties.

In addition to the apparent lack of legal standing, this submission contains other material misstatements. These include but are not limited to the unfounded assertions this rezone would provide a public benefit to the "grand connection" and that the current zoning has impeded the development of the property.

Approval would benefit a single investor, while providing no public benefit and negatively impacting the neighborhood.

This property shares an easement with the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club and is directly adjacent to a downtown park and children's play area. The safety of these children and family's needs to be prioritized. This property has been an eyesore and safety hazard for over 5 years. It has neither been maintained or kept secure, attracting homeless, drug users and other illicit activities.

I encourage the Planning Department to flag this property as a public safety and health risk and expedite the demolition. In the meantime, semi- permanent fencing should be required around its entire perimeter to help maximize the security of the neighborhood.

In summary City Council has unanimously supported the “do no harm principle”. Now is the time to stand by these principles and 1) deny this application in totality, 2) require the property to be maintained and kept secure 3) accelerate its demolition and 4) drive efforts to restore this property to residential housing as soon as possible.

Thank you. I look forward to working with staff and the Commission to further protect and enhance our neighborhoods while expanding housing opportunities.

Craig Spiezle

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